

# PRESS RELEASE

## Congressman John Conyers, Jr.

Fourteenth District, Michigan  
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary  
Dean, Congressional Black Caucus

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**CONYERS CITES BBC REPORT THAT ADMINISTRATION KNEW**  
**THERE WAS NO WMD:**  
**“THE WHITE HOUSE SHOULD APOLOGIZE TO SENATOR KENNEDY”**

Video footage, aired on BBC last night, showed Secretary of State Colin Powell stating on February 24, 2001: “He (Saddam Hussein) has not developed any significant capability with respect to weapons of mass destruction. He is unable to project conventional power against his neighbors.” The report also asserted that, immediately after the September 11 attacks, Secretary of State Donald Rumsfeld said he wanted to “hit” Iraq and allegedly said “Go Massive ... Sweep it all up. Things related and not.” In addition, National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice reportedly said of Saddam Hussein, in November 2001: “We are able to keep his arms from him. His military forces have not been rebuilt.” <http://www.smh.com.au/articles/2003/09/23/1064082978207.html>

In response to this report and White House criticism of Senator Ted Kennedy, Congressman John Conyers, Jr., issued the following statement:

“The White House should immediately apologize to Senator Kennedy for calling his legitimate criticism of the rush to war ‘uncivil.’ This report demonstrates that there are serious, unanswered questions about whether this Administration has been straight with the American people about the reasons for putting their son and daughters at risk in Iraq. If these allegations are true, they raise some of the most grave questions about the Bush Administration’s commitment to truth and our constitutional system of government. We deserve a full accounting on this matter, the resignation of officials who perpetuated the myth of Saddam being connected to 9/11, and the President himself should at long last take responsibility for these deceptions.”

##JUD-108-09/24/03##